



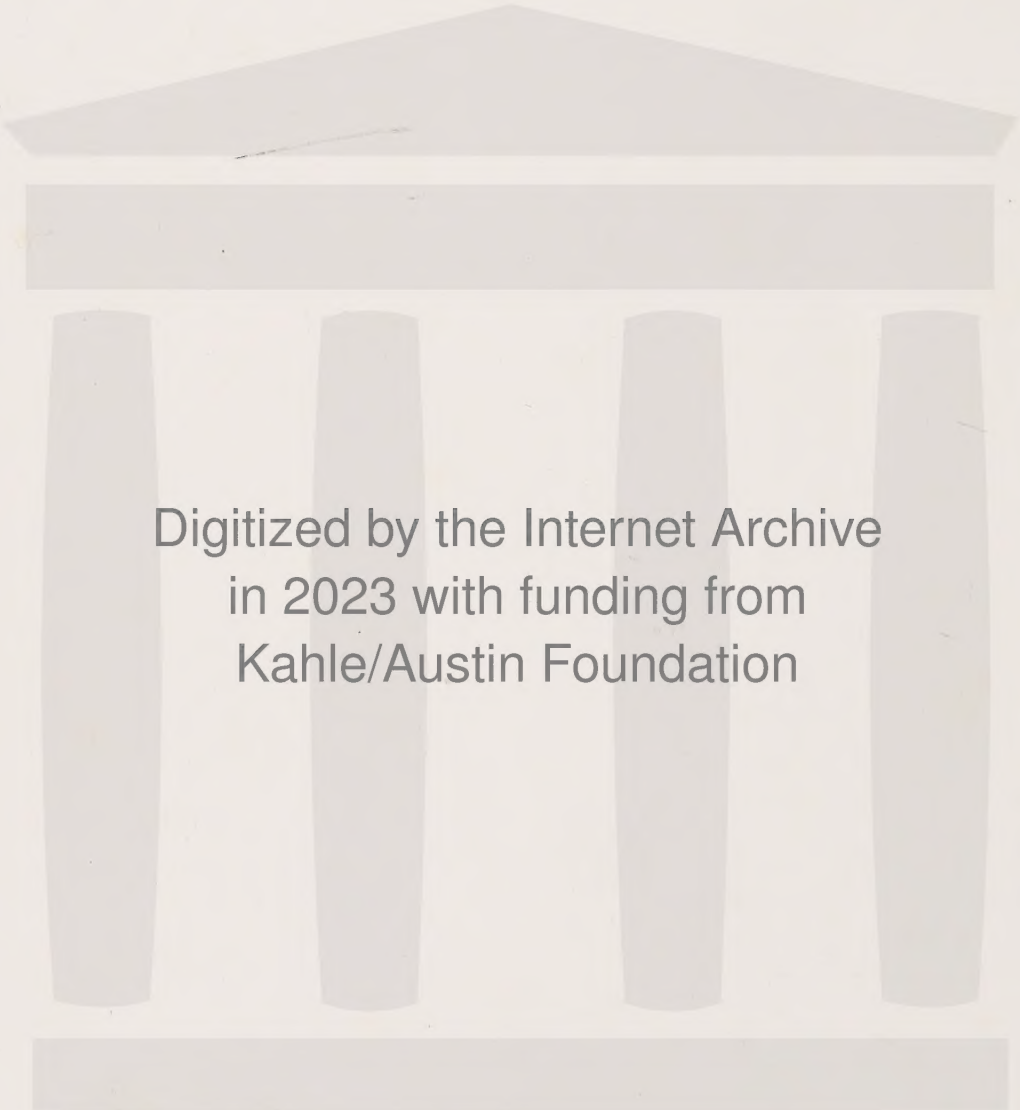
# Beauty and the Beast

## Love Held Captive



Tim Webb

Disney Princess  
**LiBRARY**

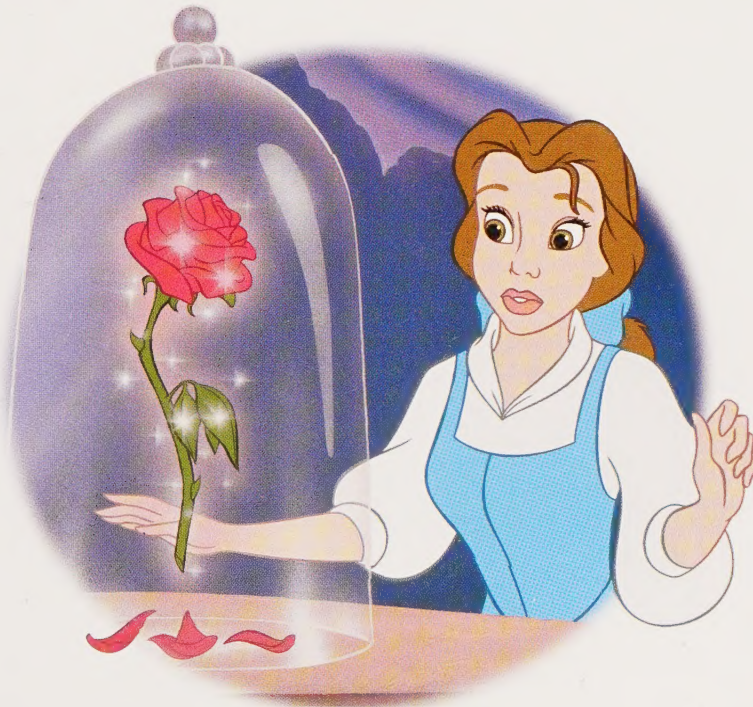


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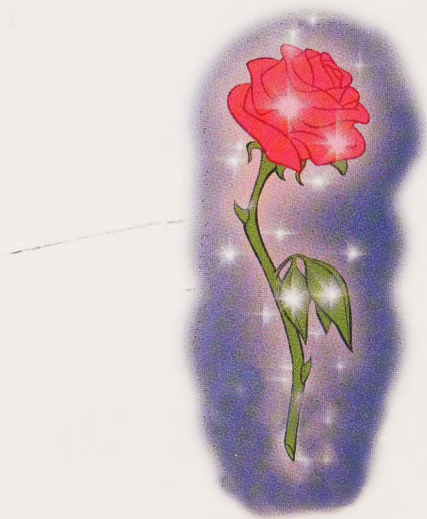


# Love Held Captive



PaRRagon

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Parragon

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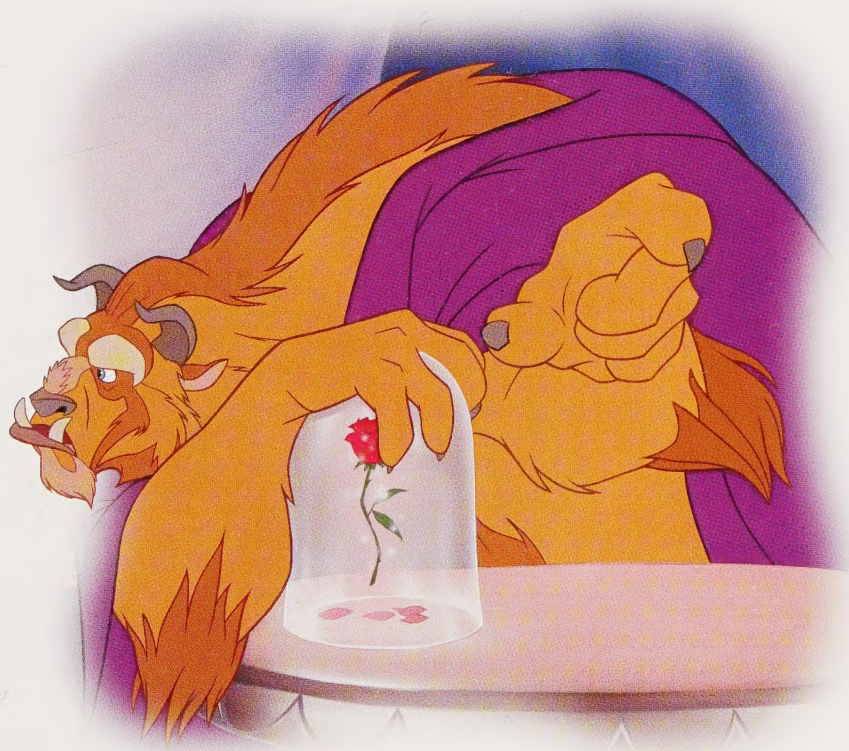
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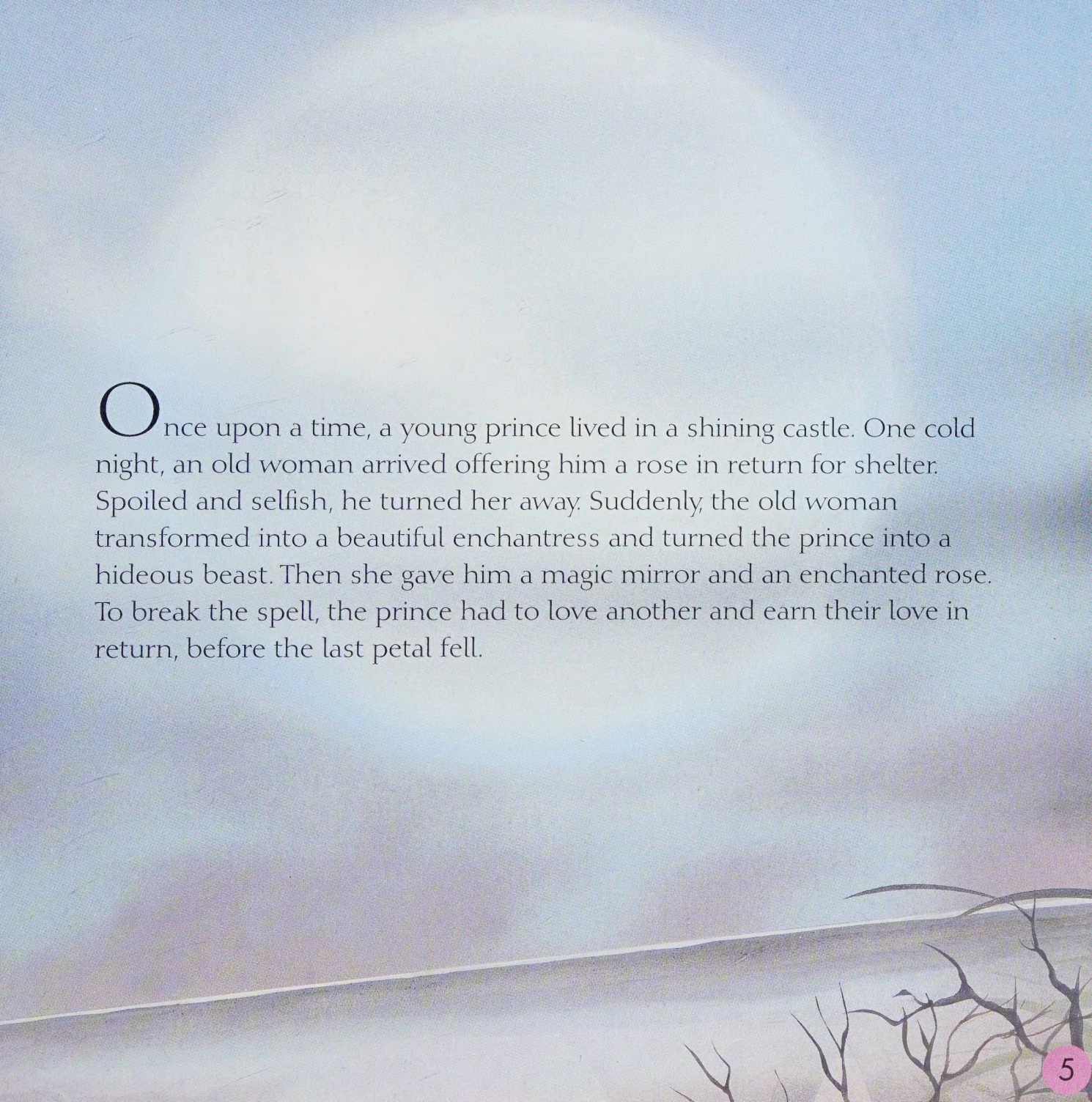
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# Love Held Captive

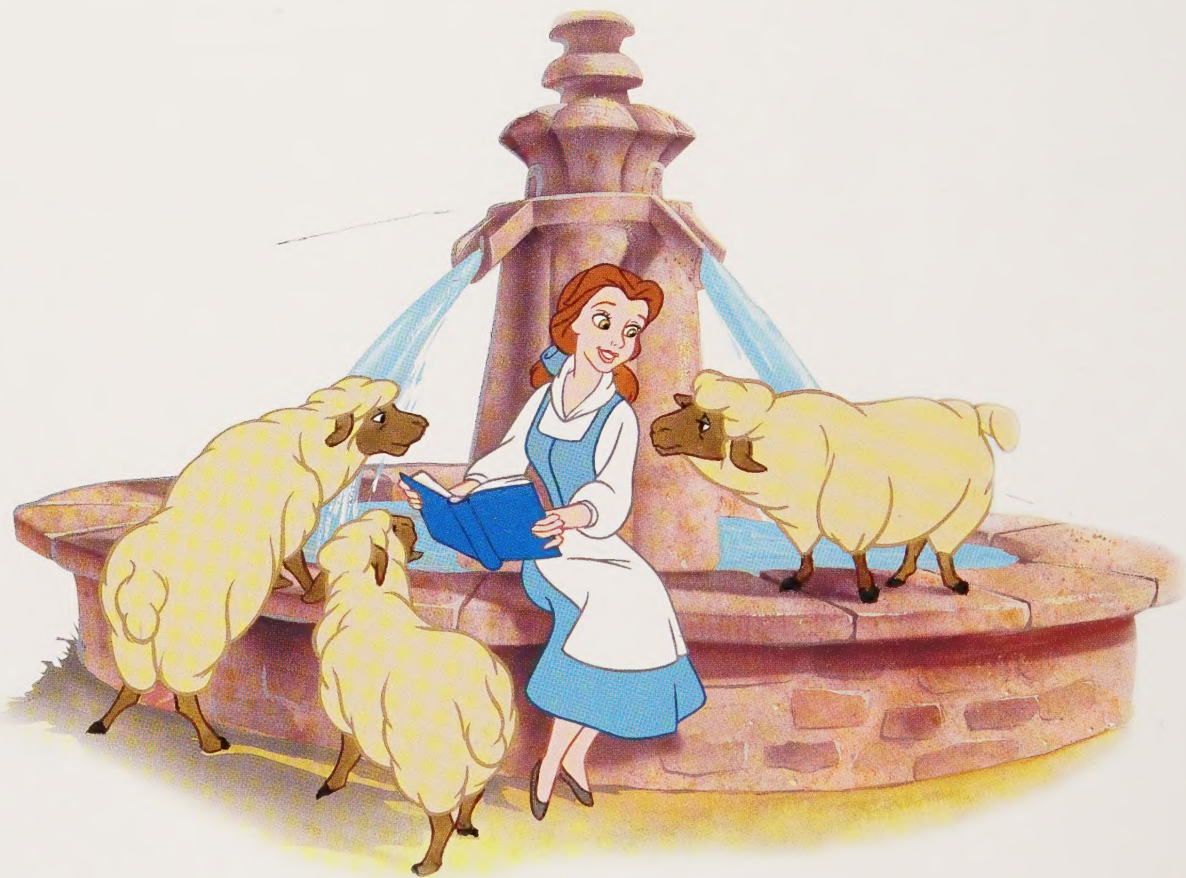


Tim Webb





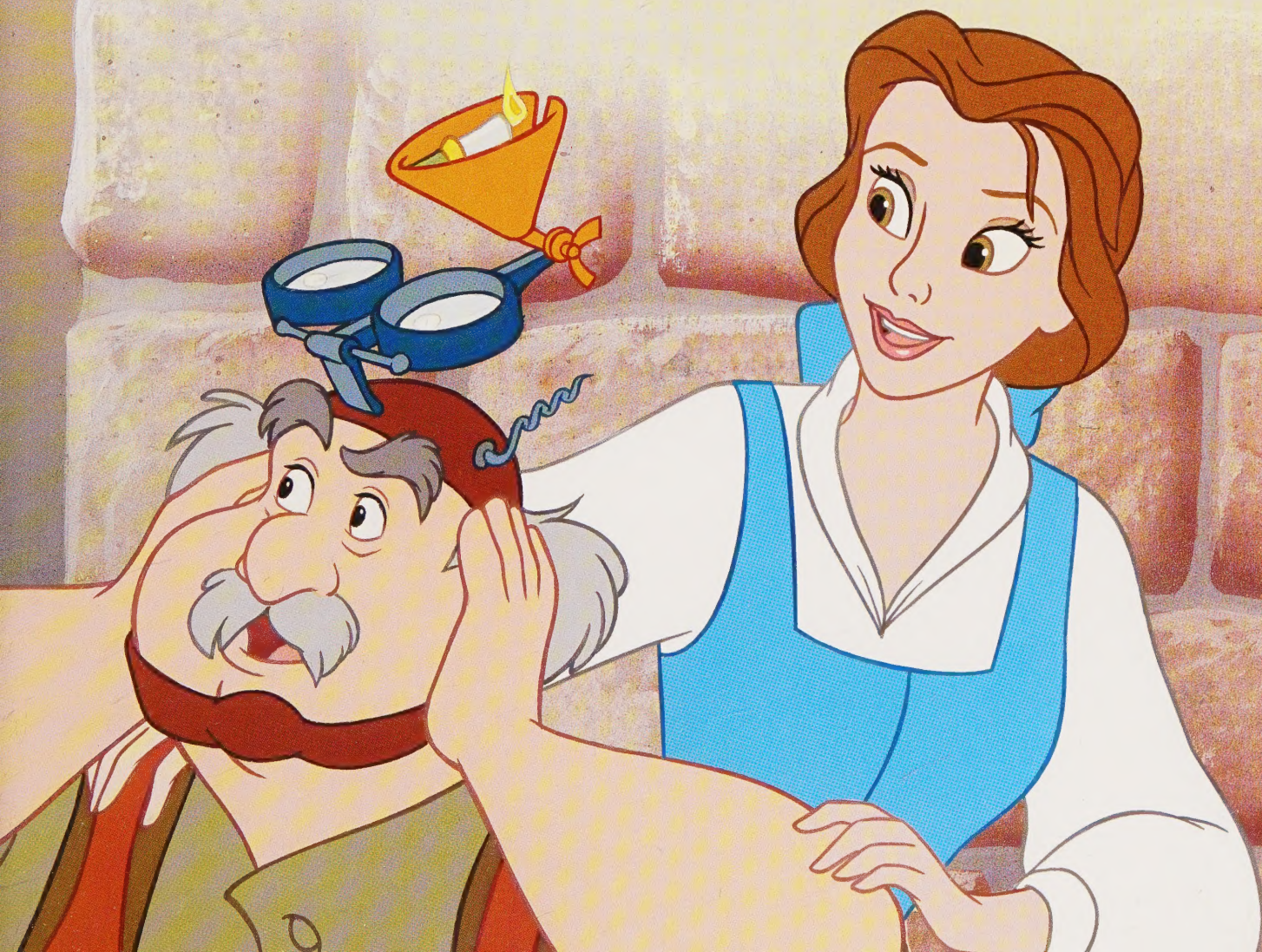
Once upon a time, a young prince lived in a shining castle. One cold night, an old woman arrived offering him a rose in return for shelter. Spoiled and selfish, he turned her away. Suddenly, the old woman transformed into a beautiful enchantress and turned the prince into a hideous beast. Then she gave him a magic mirror and an enchanted rose. To break the spell, the prince had to love another and earn their love in return, before the last petal fell.

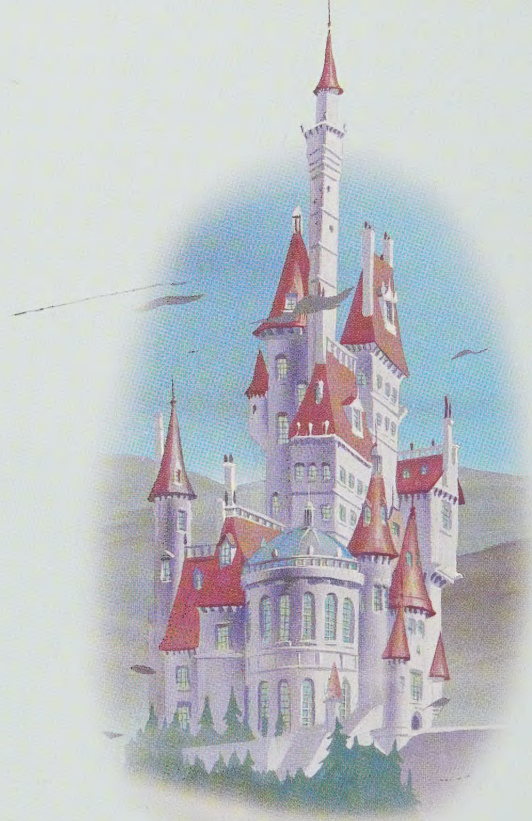


In a small village nearby, there lived a beautiful, young maiden named Belle. She lived with her father, and loved nothing more than reading books.

Belle's father, Maurice, was an inventor. Most of the people in the village believed that he was crazy because he was forever having strange ideas and creating odd inventions. But neither Belle nor her father cared what the other townsfolk said.

As her father tinkered away on his latest invention, Belle encouraged him lovingly. 'You'll win first prize at the fair tomorrow.'





The next day, Maurice climbed onto his horse, Philippe, and headed off for the fair. But as he was riding through a dark forest, he became lost. As a group of bats flew past, Philippe threw Maurice off his back and ran away.

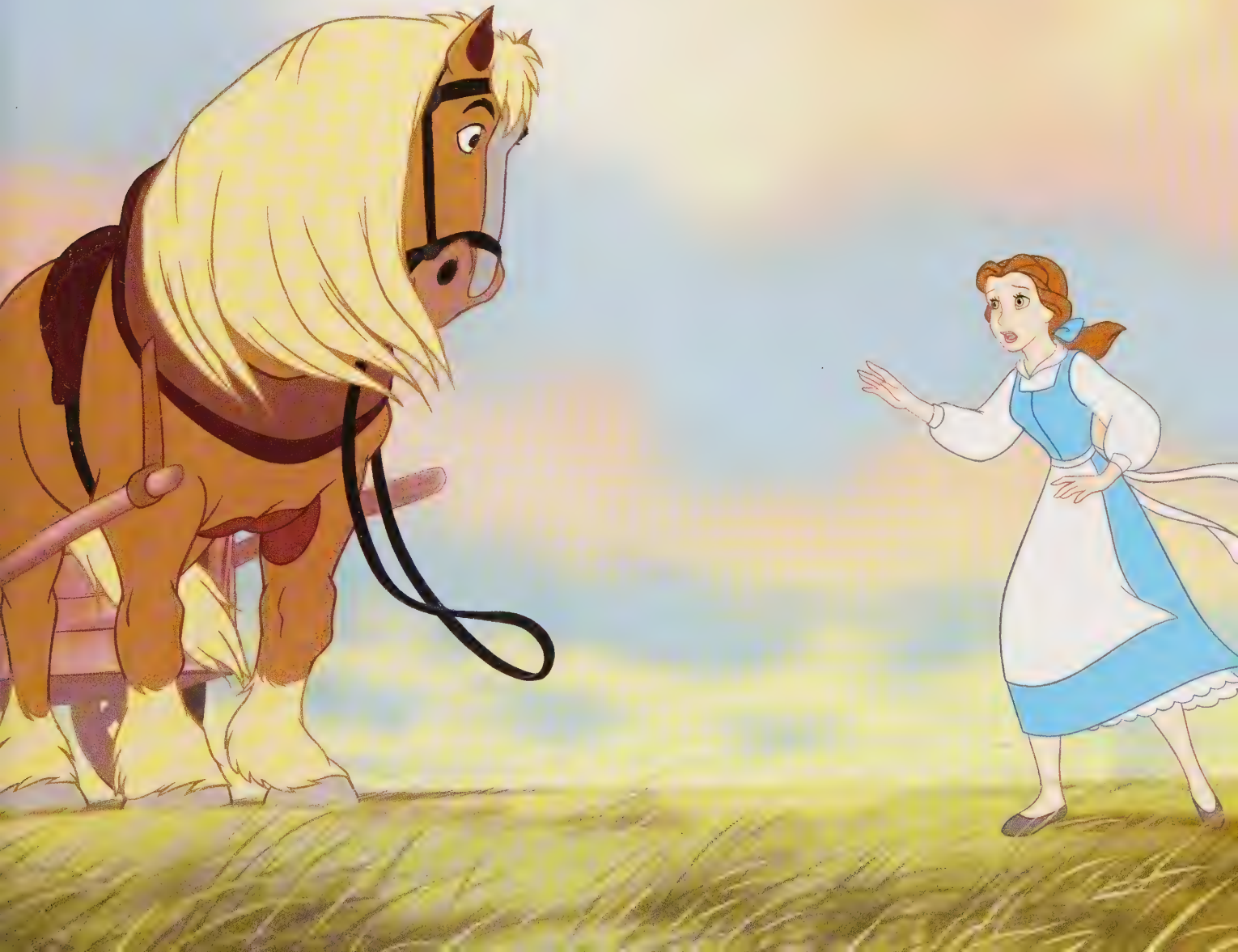
Maurice continued through the forest on foot, and eventually reached a giant castle.



Maurice walked inside the castle to ask for help. But no sooner had he wandered inside than he was captured by the Beast and locked away in a cold, dark dungeon!



The next day, Belle was outside her house. Suddenly, she saw Philippe return without her father. She knew that something was wrong. 'Philippe!' she cried. 'Where's Papa? You must take me to him!'



Belle jumped onto Philippe's back and headed off in search of Maurice. They went through the forest, which was clouded in a thick, eerie fog. Although she wanted to turn back, Belle knew that she had to find her father.

Suddenly, the Beast's castle came into view.



Belle approached the giant building and went inside. She wandered through dark hallways and stale rooms until she eventually came across the dungeon. Finding her father locked behind bars, she raced up to see if he was all right.

But Belle soon realised that she and her father were not alone.





Suddenly, a deep and scary voice sounded from the shadows. 'I am the master of this castle!' it boomed. The Beast then appeared.

Belle was terribly frightened when she saw the Beast, but she loved her father too much to run away. 'Take me instead!' she pleaded.

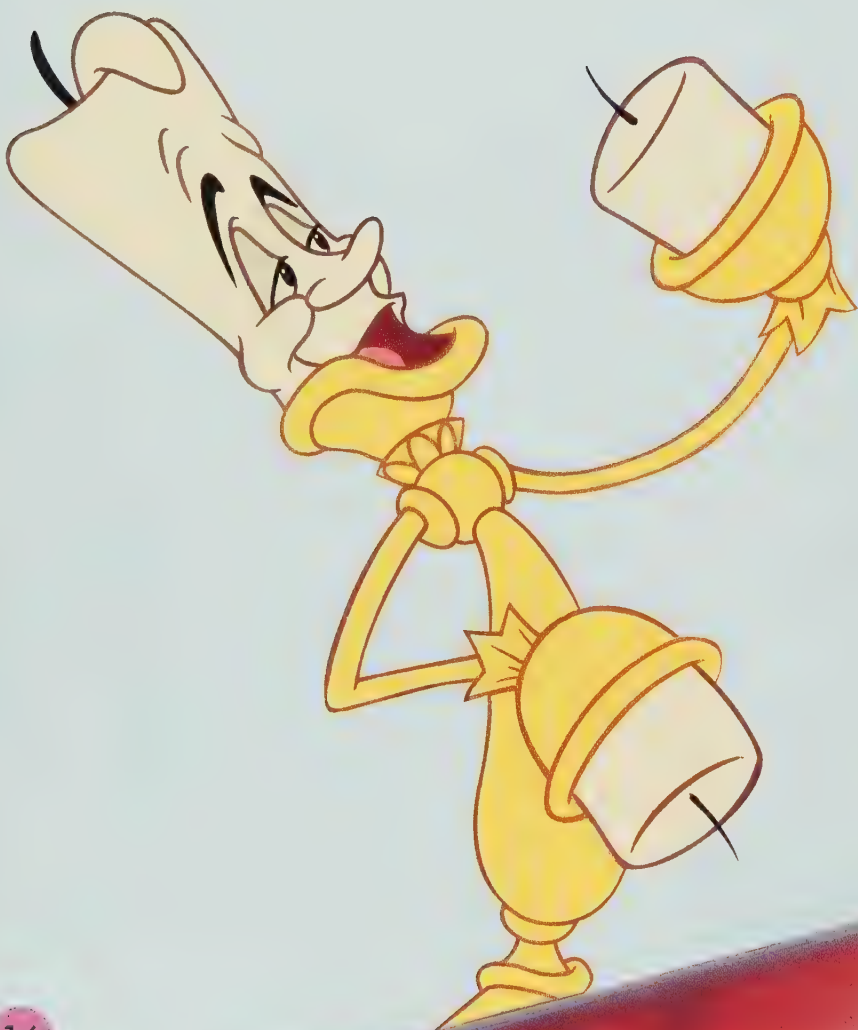
The Beast agreed, and threw Maurice into the forest.

Belle was distraught. She didn't want to spend the rest of her life in the cold castle with the horrible Beast. But she had made a deal and there seemed to be no way out.

The Beast showed Belle to her room, and demanded that she join him for dinner that evening. Food was the last thing on Belle's mind. She sat on the floor of her new bedroom and wished that she could leave.



Belle soon discovered that the castle was not completely terrible. When the Enchantress had transformed the prince into a beast, she had also transformed the castle's servants into household objects. The Enchanted Objects showed Belle kindness and became her friends. There was Cogsworth the mantel clock, Mrs Potts the teapot, Lumiere the candelabra, and many more.





That night, Belle could not bring herself to join the Beast for dinner. Instead, she stayed in her room. But as time passed, she became hungrier and hungrier.

Keen to make Belle feel at home, Lumiere invited her downstairs for dinner. 'Be our guest,' he said.



As Belle went to the dining room and sat down at the table, Lumiere led a lively song. All of a sudden, dishes started to dance and bottles popped their corks. Then different serving dishes carried in a smorgasbord of tasty treats!



After dinner, Belle wandered around the castle, exploring her new home. Eventually, she reached the West Wing. Even though the Beast had told her never to enter the West Wing, Belle's curiosity got the best of her.

Belle entered a messy room and looked around. In the middle of the room was a table, and on the table was the enchanted rose.





Suddenly, the Beast charged into the room, furious that Belle had disobeyed his orders. He raced towards the rose, shielded it from Belle, and roared: 'Get out!'

Terrified, Belle fled the castle.

As Belle jumped onto Philippe and raced into the forest, she saw lots of yellow eyes glowing at her. Wolves!

Belle and Philippe watched horrified as the wolves formed a circle around them.



Just as the wolves were about to pounce, the Beast rushed in and grabbed one of the pack. He eventually managed to scare the wolves away, but not before he was wounded. One of the wolves bit him on his arm.



Belle knew that this was her chance to escape the Beast once and for all. But when she looked at the wounded creature on the ground, she couldn't leave him. Instead, she and Philippe helped the Beast back to the castle. And when they were finally safe inside, Belle tended to his wounds.





As time passed, Belle and the Beast exchanged kindnesses. And soon, they became friends. They read books, walked outdoors, and ate dinner together. One night, they even shared a beautiful, moonlit dance.

Although she was enjoying her time in the castle, the Beast could tell that Belle was unhappy. When he asked her how she felt, she explained that she missed her father.

The Beast told Belle that she was free to leave. 'You must go to him,' he said. Then he gave Belle the magic mirror, so she could look into it and see him any time.

As Belle left, the Beast's heart broke.



Belle was overjoyed when she saw her father. But her joy ended when the townsfolk came to have Maurice put into an asylum. They thought he was crazy because he had been telling them all about the Beast while Belle was away.



Just as her father was about to be taken away, Belle stepped in and explained that he wasn't crazy. She showed Gaston, a hunter, the magic mirror that the Beast had given her. As Gaston looked into the mirror, he saw the Beast.



When Gaston realised that the Beast did exist and that Belle had grown fond of him, he became furious. He convinced the rest of the townsfolk that they had to kill the Beast. And so they all headed off to the castle.

When the townsfolk reached the Beast's castle, Gaston raced up the stairs and onto the rooftop. There, he found the Beast. The pair started to fight, and Gaston wounded the Beast with an arrow.



Just as the Beast was about to give up, Belle arrived. The Beast found new strength and grabbed Gaston by the throat. But he couldn't kill the hunter—his time with Belle had made him too human.

The Beast released Gaston, feeling only pity for him. He then went to embrace Belle. While his back was turned, however, the Beast was stabbed by Gaston.

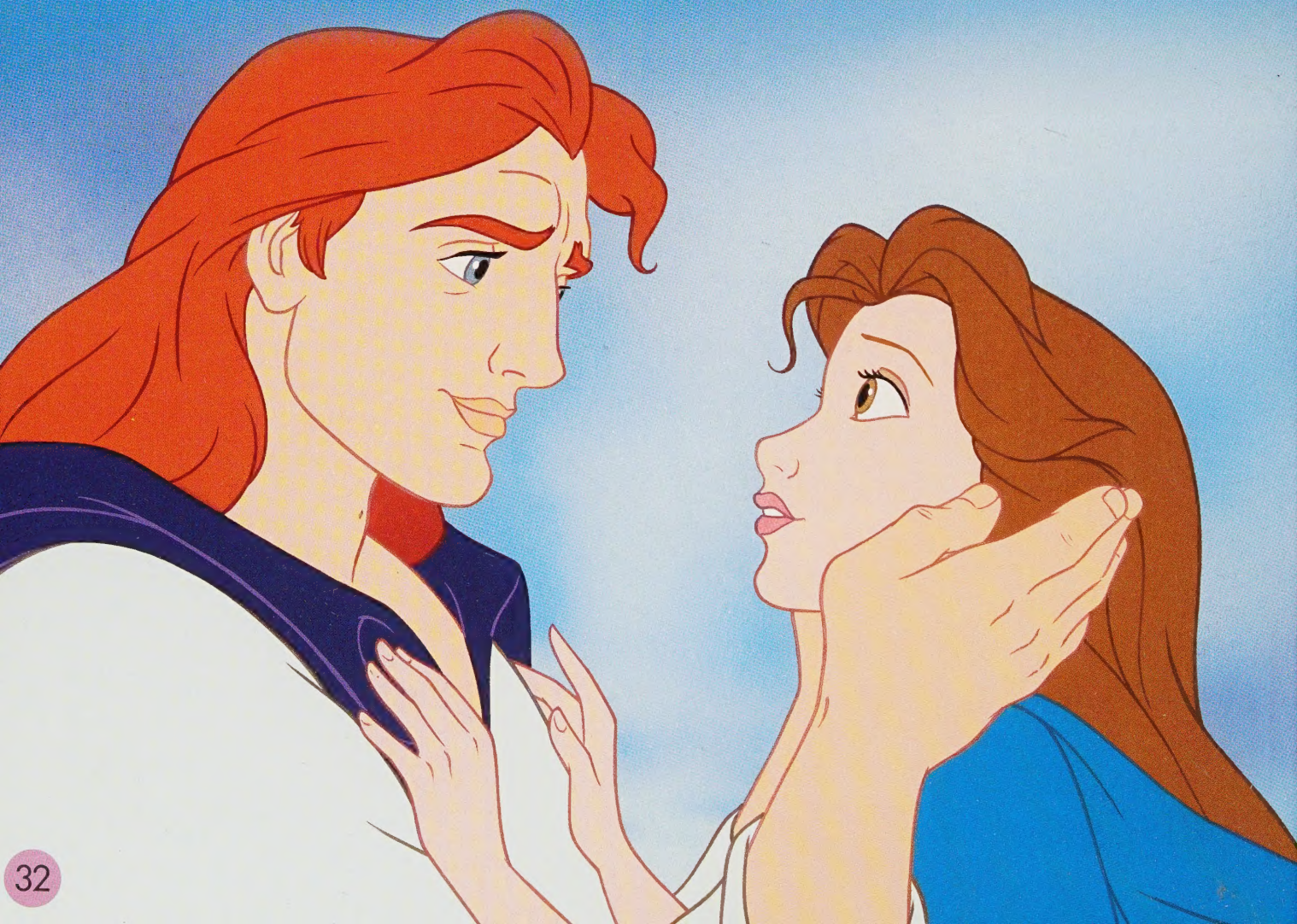


Belle rushed to the Beast's side, distraught that he had been injured. As he started to fade away, Belle wept. 'No! Please ... please!' she begged. 'I love you.'



As soon as Belle had declared her love, the Beast stirred. Then all of a sudden, he began to transform. Belle watched in awe as the Beast changed into a handsome prince. The pair shared a tender kiss as their love broke the spell.

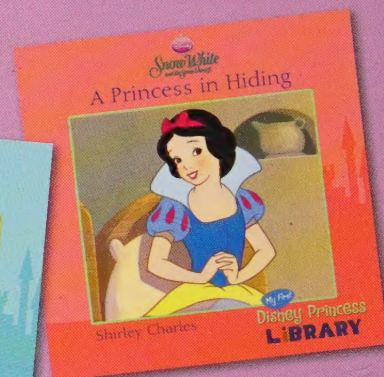
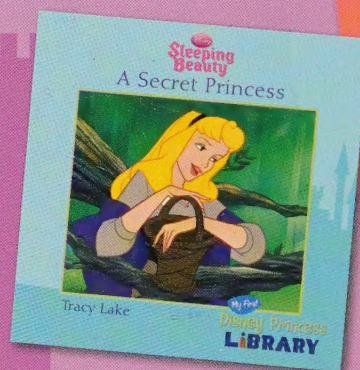
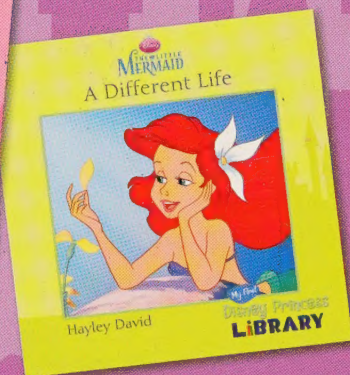
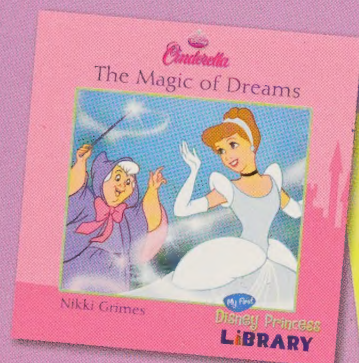
The End



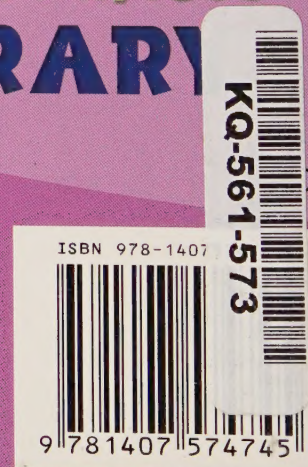


Belle lives in a sleepy provincial town with her father, Maurice.  
But when Maurice is captured by a Beast and held prisoner in his castle,  
Belle exchanges her freedom for his. Will she find unexpected happiness  
within the walls of the castle? Perhaps a sensitive heart beats within the  
Beast's rugged chest ...

### Other books in the series:



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